

NEWS

FROM

PROLOG

RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING ASS'N, INC.

875 WEST END AVE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025

MO 3-8461

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

18. November 1966

SOVIET POETS CONFIRM REPORTS OF TRIALS IN UKRAINE ALSO SPEAK ON THE STATE OF YIDDISH WRITING THERE

NEW YORK — Two members of the Soviet Ukrainian Delegation to the United Nations have confirmed reports of recent arrests and trials of Ukrainian intellectuals in several cities of the Ukrainian S. S. R. News of these arrests was released last September by Prolog Research and Publishing Association, Inc.

Dmytro Pavlychko, 37, and Ivan Drach, 30, both poets and members of the Ukrainian Delegation to the 21st Session of the U. N. General Assembly, appeared at a poetry evening Nov. 11 in the Overseas Press Club. The literary evening was arranged by the Ukrainian Round Table Club of New York.

The statement about the arrests came in answer to a question from the floor. Drach, speaking for Pavlychko and himself, said: "This question is very painful for us and for me personally, because among those arrested were my friends". He added that the past year was marked by these arrests.

According to Drach the evidence against the defendants included all kinds of documents criticizing the Soviet system of government; the hostile attitude of the system towards things Ukrainian, about the "Red fascism" which still prevails in the Ukraine, and the like.

Drach said he felt there was no need to arrest these persons and bring them to trial. Instead, he said, it would have been more appropriate to censure the people who engaged in these activities at meetings of their peers.

A similar statement was made by Dmytro Pavlychko at a recent literary evening of the two poets held in the Ukrainian Worker Home, 85 East 4th St. in New York City.

News of the mass arrests was made known here in September, 1966 by Prolog, Inc. In its release Prolog stated that from the summer of 1965 to April, 1966 a number of persons were arrested in Kiev, L'viv, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk for "anti-Soviet propaganda". The Prolog release also listed 17 names of those arrested. Drach mentioned three names in his statement, and all of them coincided with those listed by Prolog. They were: Bohdan HORYN, an art critic from L'viv, his brother Mykhaylo HORYN, a psychologist, and Panas ZALYVAKHA, an artist.

Replying to the question about the state of Jewish literature in the Ukraine, Drach said that the idea for the Yiddish-language journal originated in the Ukraine. "Several Ukrainian writers, among them Mykola Bazhan and Yuriy Smolych, did the groundwork in preparation for the publication of a Jewish journal in Kiev", Drach said. "But the Jews in Moscow wanted it to be published there, and it so happens that now that magazine comes out in Moscow and not in Kiev. But I think it would not be a bad idea if the Jews had their own journal and their own press in the Ukraine as well."

He added that among the membership of the Union of Writers of Ukraine there is a small number of those who write in Russian and Yiddish.

Since coming to New York for the General Assembly Session Dmytro Pavlychko and Ivan Drach have appeared and plan to appear at several literary evenings in their honor. Besides those at the Overseas Press Club and at the Worker Home the two appeared in Rutgers University in New Brunswick, Nov. 16. They are still scheduled to appear at Columbia University, Rutgers University in Newark, at Harvard University and at La Salle College in Philadelphia.